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U.S. Patent Application No. 09/915,179

Page 2

[Please amend claim 12 to read as follows:]

ad 12. The method of claim 6, comprising determining that due to failed symbols in the block of ECC encoded data, there is an unacceptable probability that decoding the block of ECC encoded data will not correctly recover original information.

Remarks

Note that claims 7-10, 13-20, and 27-31 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 7-10 and 13-20 are all dependent claims which may be pursued in a separately filed CIP application. Claims 27-31 are being canceled to reduce the likelihood of receiving a non-unity objection. The applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a related application.

Note that claims 6, 11, and 12 have been amended. Appendix A contains a marked up copy of amended claims 6, 11, and 12.

An action on the merits of this application is awaited.

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Appendix A

6. The method of claim [1] 2, comprising determining, [whether original information is expected to be unrecoverable from a] from attempting to perform ECC decoding, failed symbols in the block of ECC encoded data [stored in the accessed set of storage cells] that have been affected by a physical failure.

11. The method of claim [10] 6, comprising determining that there are more failed symbols in the block of ECC encoded data than can be reliably corrected by error correction decoding the block of ECC encoded data.

12. The method of claim [10] 6, comprising determining that due to failed symbols in the block of ECC encoded data, there is an unacceptable probability that decoding the block of ECC encoded data will not correctly recover original information.